

## Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00  
IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00  
INRE-00 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 CEQ-01 /134 W  
-----108840 080557Z /23

O R 080400Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7489

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 SUVA 0974

HICOMTERPACIS STATUS LNO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FJ, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (SPRFO)  
MEETING IN SUVA

1. SUMMARY: FIRST THREE DAYS OF SPRFO MEETING HAS RESULTED  
GENERAL CONSENSUS OF SOUTH PACIFIC COUNTRIES, WITH QUESTIONS  
BEING RAISED BY PAPUA-NEW GUINEA, THAT U.S. PARTICIPATION  
IS DESIRABLE AND THAT PROPOSED DRAFT CONVENTION SHOULD BE BASIS  
FOR FUTURE DISCUSSIONS. PNG CONTINUES TO QUESTION ADVISABILITY  
OF U.S. PARTICIPATION, BUT GENERALLY STANDS ALONE AGAINST  
APPARENT CONSENSUS OF ALL OTHER COUNTRIES. PNG HAS INDICATED  
WILLINGNESS TO CONTINUE TO NEGOTIATE ALONG THE LINES OF NOVEMBER  
TEXT AND USG-PNG JURISICAL FORMULA THAT IS STILL BEING DEVISED.

2. DISCUSSIONS OPENED ON JUNE 5 WITH ALL NATIONS REPRESENTED

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EXCEPT NAURU. AS FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS, CONFERENCE ELECTED  
PAUL COTTON OF NEW ZEALAND TO REPLACE C. BEEBE AS CHAIRMAN. FORUM  
COUNTRIES REPORTED ON APIA MEETING HELD LAST WEEK. ALTHOUGH  
REPORTS OF DECISIONS REACHED AT APIA VARIED, ALL AGREED THAT  
GENERAL CONSENSUS HAD EMERGED THAT US SHOULD NOT BE BARRED  
FROM PARTICIPATION IN SPRFO AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. DIRECTOR  
OF SPEC MADE STRONG STATEMENT THAT APIA MEETING HAD

DIRECTED FORUM COUNTRIES TO FIND A WAY TO ACCOMMODATE U.S. IN SPITE OF THIS GENERAL AGREEMENT, WHEN DISCUSSIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE BEGAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG) DELEGATION TOOK LEAD IN OPPOSING ACCOMODATION. STATING THEY WERE UNDER STRICT INSTRUCTIONS, PNG DELEGATION SEEMED INTENT ON EITHER EXCLUDING USG FROM MAJOR PARTICIPATION, OR WEAKENING ORGANIZATION TO POINT WHERE IT WAS POWERLESS.

3. DURING TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSIONS, PNG TRIED A VARIETY OF TACTICS, RANGING FROM ESTABLISHMENT OF ASUBMCOMMITTEE TO EXPLORE LEGAL ISSUES TO PRESENTING AHOPELESSLY COMPLEX PROPOSAL FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS. WHEN DISCUSSIONS APPEARED TO BE IN DANGER OF STALEMATE, CHAIRMAN RECESSED MEETING TO ALLOW FORUM COUNTRIES TO CAUCUS. DURING TWO FORUM MEETINGS, WHICH FROM ALL REPORTS WERE "HEAD-KNOCKING" SESSIONS, TWO OPTIONS EMERGED, AND IN RESUMED MEETING WERE PRESENTED TO CONFERENCE FROM CIAIR. FIRST WAS PNG PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE STATE-MENT OF COASTAL STATE RIGHTS OVER TUNA, ALLOW U.S. TO ENTER A RESERVATION. SECOND WAS TO SIMPLY HAVE CONVENTION SILENT ON ENTIRE QUESTION AND DELETE ANY REFERENCE TO COASTAL STATE RIGHTS. U.S. INDICATED ACCEPTANCE OF SECOND ALTERNATIVE, ALTHOUGH PNG INDICATED DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS APPROACH. IN SURPRISE MOVE SEVERAL DELEGATIONS STATED PREFERENCE FOR U.S. "DISCLAIMER" CLAUSE PROPOSED LAST NOVEMBER ALTHOUGH AGAIN PNG ENTERED OB-JECTION. PNG THEN TABLED QUOTE JURIDICAL ARTICLE END QUOTE. USG INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO WORK FROM PNG PROPOSAL.  
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ICAE-00 INRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 CEQ-01  
DLOS-09 /145 W

-----108893 080601Z /23

O R 080400Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7490  
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY  
-AMEMBASSY TOKYO 106  
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

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HICOMTERPACIS STATUS LNO

4. CONFERENCE DECIDED "TWO-TREATY" APPROACH WAS NOT DESIRABLE, AND SUPPORTED FIJIAN PROPOSAL FOR HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES COMMITTEE TO ALLOW PARTICIPATION BY NONSIGNATORY DISTANT WATER FISHING STATES.

5. DISCUSSIONS ON JURIDICAL MATTERS AND U.S. MEMBERSHIP HAVE APPARENTLY RESULTED IN SOLID CONSENSUS ALTHOUGH FINAL PNG REACTION IS NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN. PNG PROPOSALS FOR SUCH OPTIONS AS TWO BODIES OR TWO CONVENTIONS UNDER SPRFO -- ONE CONSISTING OF COASTAL STATES WHICH AGREE TO LOCAL JURISDICTION OF HIGHLY MIGRATORY SPECIES, THE OTHER OF THESE COUNTRIES, PLUS OTHER CONCERNED STATES, WERE REJECTED OUTRIGHT BY THE CONFERENCE. IT APPEARED TO USDEL THAT PNG TACTICS WERE VIEWED BY MANY DELEGATIONS AS OBSTRUCTIONIST, AND THIS, COUPLED WITH SOMEWHAT INSENSITIVE HANDLING OF PNG POSITION BY LAVENDER, RESULTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN TOTAL ISOLATION.

6.. DURING SMALL HEADS OF DELEGATION MEETING BETWEEN SPEC, PNG, FIJI, WESTERN SAMOA, TONGA, U.S., PNG REP SABUMEI STATED THAT ALTHOUGH CONSENSUS WHICH WAS EMERGING WAS OUTSIDE HIS INSTRUCTION, HE WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE AND WOULD BE PERSONALLY WILLING TO SUBMIT DRAFT CONVENTION ALONG THESE LINES TO HIS GOVERNMENT. U.S. INDICATED PRIVATELY TO SABUMEI THAT IN DRAFTING COMPROMISE U.S. DEL WAS BEING AS FLEXIBLE AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO MEET PNG CONCERNS.  
CONDON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, FISHERIES, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 jun 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (SPRFO) MEETING IN SUVA  
**TAGS:** EFIS, PLOS, FJ, XP, SPRFO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014